



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

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Chief Executive Officer

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February 11, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

STATUS REPORT – NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM’S PLANS TO TRANSFER COUNTY HISTORIC AUTOMOBILE COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT OF VEHICLES PRIOR TO ANY DISPOSITION

On November 6, 2007, your Board approved the termination of the County Historic Automobile Collection Agreement with the Petersen Automotive Museum Foundation and ordered the Chief Executive Officer to report back to the Board on the Natural History Museum’s (NHM) plans to assess the County-owned historic automotive vehicle collection (County Collection) before any cars are sold, or are proposed to be sold. Since that date, NHM has proceeded with moving the County Collection vehicles to new County-leased space. New loan agreements were signed for the vehicles that remain at the Petersen Automotive Museum (Petersen).

At this time:

- The insect-related tenting and quarantine of the vehicles at the new County-leased space has been lifted;
- The insect eradication of the two vehicles that remained at the Petersen is complete, and NHM staff is preparing for their receipt;
- The completion of the insect eradication at the County-leased space allows scheduling for other conservation needs, including the draining of fluids and elevating vehicles off the ground to protect historic tires;

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- Outside experts have been identified to assist in the next steps of the vehicle-by-vehicle assessment to determine museum importance and overall collection management plan, which NHM staff plans to complete in Spring 2009;
- An outside conservator continues to work on the Woods Dual Power vehicle in anticipation of its exhibition in the new NHM California Environmental History Gallery opening in 2012; and
- The Natural History Museum collections and exhibit experts have completed a preliminary review of all the vehicles at the County-leased space to determine which other vehicles may be included in the new gallery.

When complete, the collection assessment and management plan will be presented to your Board. The next status report will be provided within 90 days.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the status report, please contact Robert Moran at (213) 974-1130, or via email at rmoran@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:LS
DSP:RTM:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Natural History Museum